

-2-

POU996048US3

Amendment to the Claims:

In compliance with the Revised Amendment Format, a complete listing of claims is provided herein.

1. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

2. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to manage membership of at least one of said process group and a processor group of processors.

-3-

POU996048US3

3. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to control a group state value for said process group, in the form of a synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the members of the process group as changes are made.

4. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to manage membership of said process group and a processor group of processors; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to control a group state value for said process group, in the form of a synchronized blackboard with any changes thereto made available to the members of the process group as the changes are made.

-4-

POU996048US3

5. (Previously presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 4, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to monitor, by a member of said process group having no voting rights, one or more aspects of said process group.

6. (Previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means therein for providing a single application programming interface, said computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to communicate between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to accomplish voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group, said proposed action including one of a member joining said process group or leaving said process group; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to implement, or refrain from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 5, wherein said one or more aspects comprises at least one of a change of state and a membership change.

8. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 1, wherein said voting comprises issuing a default vote for at least one member of said process group.

-5-

POU996048US3

9. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 8, wherein said default vote comprises one of approve and reject.

10. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 8, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to initialize a value for said default vote at formation of said processing group.

11. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 10, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to change the value of said default vote.

12. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 11, wherein said computer readable program code means for causing a computer to change the value of said default vote comprises computer readable program code means for causing a computer to temporarily change the value of said default vote.

13. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 12, further comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect reverting of said value for said default to the value at formation after said proposed protocol is complete.

14. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 8, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote after a predetermined time period during which no vote is received from said at least one member of said process group.

15. (New) The computer readable program code means in said computer program product of claim 8, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote in response to failure of said at least one member of said process group.

-6-

POU996048US3

16. (New) A method of providing a single application programming interface, comprising:

communicating between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group for synchronizing said related processes of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group, wherein said voting comprises issuing a default vote for at least one member of said process group; and

implementing, or refraining from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said default vote comprises one of approve and reject.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising initializing a value for said default vote at formation of said process group.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising changing said value for said default vote.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said changing comprises temporarily changing said value for said default vote.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising reverting said value for said default vote to said value at formation after said proposed protocol is complete.

22. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote after a predetermined time period during which no vote is received from said at least one member of said process group.

-7-

POU996048US3

23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote in response to failure of said at least one member of said process group.

24. (New) A single application programming interface, comprising:

means for communicating between a member of a process group of related processes and another member of said process group;

means for synchronizing said related processes of said process group by voting on a proposed protocol among the members of said process group, said proposed protocol comprising a proposed action to be taken by at least one of the members of the process group, wherein said voting comprises issuing a default vote for at least one member of said process group; and

means for implementing, or refraining from implementing, said proposed action in response to an outcome of said voting.

25. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 24, wherein said default vote comprises one of approve and reject.

26. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 24, further comprising means for initializing a value for said default vote at formation of said process group.

27. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 26, further comprising means for changing said value for said default vote.

28. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 27, wherein said means for changing comprises means for temporarily changing said value for said default vote.

29. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 28, further comprising means for reverting said value for said default vote to said value at formation after said proposed protocol is complete.

-8-

POU996048US3

30. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 24, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote after a predetermined time period during which no vote is received from said at least one member of said process group.

31. (New) The single application programming interface of claim 24, wherein said voting comprises issuing said default vote in response to failure of said at least one member of said process group.

---